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EDITORIAL

## THE AMERICAN INVASION.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**A** CORRESPONDENT asks:

“With reference to Asiatic exclusion:

“When the Co-operative Commonwealth shall have been attained and the capital of the nation is the property of the workers, will aliens be free to enter this country and possess on equal terms with the citizens? American citizenship is of no great value to the resident workers now. Under Socialism, if Socialism is what you represent it to be, citizenship in a Socialist State would be a grand possession. I judge that Socialism will not be attained without much sacrifice by all who assist in the struggle. Shall those who make the sacrifice give up, or endanger, in whole or in part, their dearly-purchased possession?”

The Co-operative Commonwealth is the product, not of any one principle or circumstance, but of a large number of circumstances and principles—economic, sociologic, tactical, etc., etc. All of these jointly are summarized in the term “Co-operative Commonwealth.” To say “Co-operative Commonwealth” is to imply all these. He who presupposes the Co-operative Commonwealth, and yet conceives the possibility of aliens entering the country, possessing on equal terms with the citizens, and thereby endangering in whole or in part the dearly purchased possession—he who does that “slips a cog”; he forgets elements in his premises without which his Co-operative Commonwealth conclusion could not be; or, to put it in other words, he imagines conditions to continue the continuance of which exclude the Co-operative Commonwealth.

All countries are not equally ripe for the Co-operative Commonwealth. From this fact flows the conclusion that the revolution which will set up the Co-operative Commonwealth can not break out in any but the ripest and ripe. Again, the Co-operative Commonwealth can not break out in any country, even the ripest and

ripe, without a sufficient number of others have reached a minimum degree of ripeness. The supposition that any one country can have reached the necessary ripeness for the Social Revolution while all others remain substantially unripe is unacceptable. Capitalism—a world-embracing movement—sees to it that that shall not, can not be. Were such a thing possible, then ill-starred would be that singular country. All others would fall upon it like a pile of bricks. The International capitalist steam-roller would flatten out the Social Revolution within such boundaries in short order.

Capitalism—again a term that summarizes a score of facts—draws all nations within the revolutionary area. In all the less ripe there is an ample sediment to keep their respective capitalists busy the instant the flag of the Co-operative Commonwealth, or Industrial Republic is unfurled in any one nation, the ripest for the Revolution. It is not in the cards that the revolutionary elements in those less ripe countries will pull up stakes and rush to the ripe one there to share, perhaps endanger, the dearly purchased possession. More likely they will stay at home, and there execute the Revolution. In revolutionary days men ripen fast.

Our correspondent, from his introductory words, “With reference to Asiatic exclusion” evidently has in mind the possibility of a flood of Asiatics into America, here to enjoy the dearly purchased possession of the Co-operative Commonwealth, Asia being silently conceded to be away backward.

Neither in that respect will the Co-operative Commonwealth run any danger. It has been the pre-eminent virtue of Capitalism to draw even Asia within the radius of the Socialist Revolution. America is ripest. Here the Revolution will be first accomplished. Backward though Asia be to-day in economic development, the thunder of the Revolution in America, unquestionable as its effect will be on Europe, will be no less effective in Asia.

The Co-operative Commonwealth in America is not imaginable without it immediately sets on foot a like movement everywhere else—Asia included. Men will not migrate to a foreign country when that foreign country has shown them the way to secure freedom and well-being at home.

Establish the Co-operative Commonwealth in America—then, so far from America having to confront the necessity of protecting its “dearly purchased

possession” from alien immigrants, alien bourgeois nations will have their hands full to protect themselves at home from the Invasion of the American Idea.

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